

**INTERNATIONAL**

In South Africa, the *Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act* forces more than three million people to resettle in one of ten 'Bantu Homelands'.

In New Zealand, militant Maori activist group Nga Tamatoa (The Young Warriors) is formed.

**IN AUSTRALIA**

Split in FCAATSI, National Tribal Council established. Growing frustration at white control of the multi-racial organisations such as the Victorian Aborigines Advancement League and FCAATSI comes to a head at the 1970 FCAATSI Easter conference. While the motions for Indigenous control of the Federal Council are not successful the national movement is split with the formation of the National Tribal Council.

Captain Cook Bi-Centenary. While non-Indigenous Australians celebrate, Aboriginal Australians organise an alternative remembrance at La Perouse Aboriginal Reserve at Botany Bay. In Melbourne a car sticker campaign - 'Cook is bad news for Aborigines' - makes the same point.

Aboriginal Legal and Medical Services are set up in Sydney. These services, the first of many, are supported by federal government grants.

**Passing of the *Aboriginal Lands Act* in Victoria leads to the presentation of the title deeds to residents of Lake Tyers and Framlingham in July.**

Yirrkala people lose case.  
Mr Justice Blackburn rules against the Yirrkala people in their case against Nabalco and the Commonwealth of Australia. The Yolngu people are shocked and angered at this outcome.



**GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Lake Tyers**

Lake Tyers was one of the last two Aboriginal reserves in Victoria. Public pressure forced the Victorian Government to face the issue: what was to be done with the ownership of Lake Tyers?

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

**FOCUS**

**NMA Website Documents**

1 Use an atlas to locate Lake Tyers, and mark it on the map of Australia.

2 Look at the report on conditions at Lake Tyers. Summarise what it tells you about:

- housing
- health
- work
- community
- education

at Lake Tyers.

Go to **Land rights > Lake Tyers > Decision to close Lake Tyers** and read the Council for Aboriginal Rights report

3 In 1962 a decision had to be made whether to send people elsewhere and close Lake Tyers as an Aboriginal settlement. From the information you have so far, what would you recommend? Prepare an argument for closing it, and one for continuing it. Which case do you think is the stronger one?

4 Now look at the arguments for and against as they were presented at the time. Have you changed your decision?

Go to **Land rights > Lake Tyers > Decision to close Lake Tyers** and read the Lake Tyers Reserve report by Diane Barwick and to **Land rights > Lake Tyers > Public support** and read the newspaper article *Human failure of Lake Tyers experiment*

**GROUP REPORT**

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Lake Tyers case is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.



Charlie Carter receives deed to Lake Tyers  
National Museum of Australia



National Museum of Australia

1972	1973	1974	1975
<p><b>INTERNATIONAL</b> The Trail of Broken Treaties, a protest organised by the American Indian Movement and other First Nations groups, sees over 800 people travel across the United States to Washington, DC.</p>	<p>In Canada, the Supreme Court recognises that Nisga'a Indians held native title to their lands before the creation of British Columbia.</p> <p>At the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, about 200 supporters of the American Indian Movement reclaim the village of Wounded Knee and announce the creation of the Oglala Sioux Nation. United States armed forces surround the group in a siege that lasts 71 days.</p>	<p>In New Zealand, Waitangi Day becomes a national holiday, after three years of campaigning by Nga Tamatoa, a militant Maori organisation.</p>	
<p><b>IN AUSTRALIA</b> <b>The Aboriginal Tent Embassy.</b> <b>Aboriginal activists outraged by Prime Minister William McMahon's refusal to acknowledge an Indigenous right to land set up their beach umbrella and hang from it a sign: 'Aboriginal Embassy'.</b> <b>The protest grows. Footage shown of confrontations with police pulling down the tents swells the numbers of supporters, bringing together urban activists and people from remote communities in the Northern Territory.</b></p>	<p>The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC) is established.</p> <p>The NACC is set up as a move towards Aboriginal representation. People over 18 who class themselves as Aboriginal, and are recognised as such by their community, are eligible to vote. Its role is only advisory.</p> <p>Aboriginal Land Rights Commission established. The Aboriginal Land Rights Commission, headed by Justice Woodward, is set up by the government of Gough Whitlam to establish ways for Aboriginal people to get land rights in the Northern Territory. As a result of its recommendations the Northern Land and the Central Land councils are established.</p>		<p><b>Prime Minister Gough Whitlam returns land to the Gurindji people. More than a decade after the walk-off from Wave Hill station, 3300 square kilometres of land is returned to traditional owners.</b></p>



## GROUP WEBSITE ACTIVITY: Aboriginal Embassy

On 25 January 1972 Prime Minister William McMahon announced that the Government would not support Aboriginal land rights as a principle.

On the following day some Aboriginal people set up an 'embassy' on the lawns outside the front entrance to Parliament House in Canberra.

Use the specific website documents indicated to prepare your group report to the class on this incident, and add your annotations to the timeline display.

### FOCUS

### NMA Website Documents

- 1 Mark the location of the Aboriginal Embassy on the map of Australia.
- 2 The protesters called their tent an 'embassy'. Discuss the meaning and implications of this word in the context of the place and time.
- 3 Read the article *The Aboriginal Embassy* and summarise the information on:
  - what the Embassy was
  - why it was set up
  - why it was set up by that group at that time
  - its aims
  - the significance of this event.
- 4 The Government attempted to close the Embassy. Describe what happened with this attempt.
- 5 The website contains a collection of photographs of the events. Look at them and create a caption for each that summarises its main point, emphasis or message. If you had to choose one photo to illustrate an article on the Embassy, which would you choose? Justify your choice.
- 6 The Aboriginal Embassy still exists. Since 1972 it has attracted critics as well as supporters. Go to the website below and use the information to create a summary of the main arguments for and against its continuing existence. Do you support the continued existence of the Aboriginal Embassy? Justify your point of view.

Go to [Land rights > Aboriginal Embassy > Supporters of the Aboriginal Embassy](#) for the document *The Aboriginal Embassy*.

Go to [www.aph.gov.au/Library/Pubs/chron/1999-2000/2000chr03.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Library/Pubs/chron/1999-2000/2000chr03.htm)

### GROUP REPORT

When you have answered all the questions above prepare a report to the class that starts: The Aboriginal Embassy is significant in understanding the development of Indigenous rights because ...

Explain the issue fully and display your summary under this part of the timeline. In this way you will be helping to create an annotated timeline for the whole class.

In 1975 the Commonwealth returned title to the land to the Gurindji people. Here are two photographs of that event.

Discuss the symbolism of the photographs.

Which do you think is the best image? Why?



Mervyn BISHOP  
Australia born 1945  
Prime Minister Gough Whitlam pours soil into hand of traditional landowner Vincent Lingiari, Northern Territory 1975

direct positive colour photograph 76.2 x 50.8 cm  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
Purchased 1994

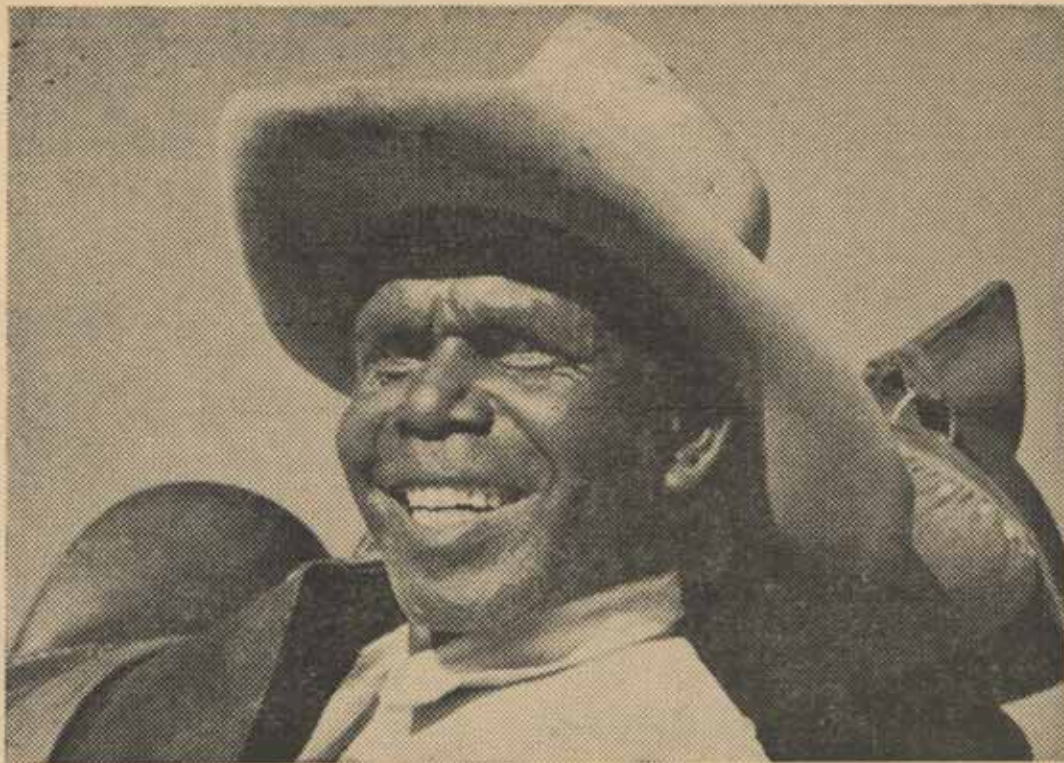
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National Archives of Australia  
Prime Minister Gough Whitlam pours soil into hand of traditional landowner Vincent Lingiari, Northern Territory 1975







“He been treat me fella  
like a dog alla time”

*said an Aborigine from Wave Hill station (N.T.)*

Aborigines recently demonstrated outside the Legislative Assembly in Darwin, demanding equal wages NOW.

In April, Aborigines walked off Newcastle Waters Station demanding equal wages NOW.

In August, 200 Aborigines walked off Vestey's Wave Hill station demanding equal wages now. Vestey's dismissed them.

The Meat Workers' Union has refused to handle cattle from these stations.

The Federal Council for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders restates its policy: Equal wages for Aborigines NOW.

Make a donation to help Aborigines win equal wages.

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Dr. Barry Christophers,  
Equal Wages Campaign, 366 Church Street, Richmond, Victoria.

Please find a subscription to the Equal Wages Campaign \$.....  
Please find a subscription to **Rights & Advancement** the monthly news-  
letter of the FCAATSI — \$1.20.

Name (block letters) .....

Address .....



